

Town of Arlington
Town Meeting Procedures Committee
June 14, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Call to order: The meeting of the Town Meeting Procedures Committee was called to order by Town Moderator Greg Christiana on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7:05pm.

Quorum: All Committee members were present: Adam Auster, Greg Christiana, Rebecca Gruber, Christopher Moore and John Worden. All Committee members attended in-person.

Public Comments: No public comments were offered.

Minutes of Prior Meetings:

April 6, 2023:

Recommended that the text of the motion submitted to the Select Board for a Hybrid Town Meeting Study Committee be attached to the minutes. With that change:
Moved approval: Ms. Gruber
Seconded: Mr. Auster
Vote: unanimous

Town Meeting Debrief:

- Mr. Christiana presented page 3 of the meeting materials “Ideas for Town Meeting Policies, Guidelines, and Preparations.”
- Discussion about the purpose of a survey to Town Meeting members.
- Discussion about the particular needs of the upcoming Special Town Meeting.
- Discussion about the low vote count and/or attendance among Town Meeting members at the 2023 Town Meeting.
- Discussion about the Consent Agenda
 - Citizen submitted articles
 - Removing articles from the Consent Agenda
 - On which night of Town Meeting should the Consent Agenda be voted
 - Vote by Town Meeting on procedural changes
- Sequencing of Multiple Amendments
 - Town Meeting Time guidance vs. Town of Arlington practice
 - General principles vs. specific application
 - Mr. Christiana will take the action item to draft general principles re: how amendments, substitute motions are sequenced.
 - Discussion about “Division” for a future meeting of the Procedures Committee
- Management of Speaker Queue
 - Speaker List visibility
 - Technology for requesting to speak
- Termination of Debate

- Mr. Christiana will take the action item to provide guidance to Town Meeting re: deciding to terminate debate.
- Time in advance for submitting substitute motions
 - Mr. Christiana will provide to Town Meeting examples of changes that can be submitted on the floor.
- Start Time for Town Meeting
 - Mr. Christiana will consult with other boards and committees.

New Business:

- Budgets - guidance about questions
- Changing text of an article / motion / amendment during the Meeting; as well as the special case when a Board / Committee changes its recommendation
- Hybrid Study Committee formation
- Next meeting of the Procedures Committee will be Wednesday, July 21 7-9PM, location to be determined.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Moved: Mr. Auster

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Rebecca Gruber